

It is my firm belief that the FCC has done nothing to improve or benefit society by allowing huge corporate companies such as Clear Channel to literally own a majority market share of radio stations, billboards, concert venues, artist management and artist booking companies throughout the country. As a performing musician, I see first-hand how a company this large has a total monopoly and too much influence in localized entertainment choice. Not only does this breed a form "gangster" mentality to smaller independent promoters, musicians and radio stations, but these same independents are forced to buy from their biggest competitor advertising spots on their radio stations and billboards. But, I feel another problem is the lack of diversified local programming. When independent music professionals are forced to buy airtime for their "unknown" artists to be heard on the major regional radio stations (otherwise known as payola, stations mostly owned by Clear Channel) it is a form of extortion and not true competition in the market place. Programming should not be dictated by one media giant that has no connection to the local community and make the markets conform to certain blanket standards that are either not relevant or just plain stale.

Please level the playing field in the music driven market place. It could only benefit the communities with diversity and breed true competition so the voice of the people may be heard.

Thank you for listening. David